



The Chimes of Liberty

*A Publication of the United States Air Force Band of Liberty
Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts*

Winter 2000

Volume 3

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Band Manager

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Chief Retires After 25 Years

“Simply the best”



CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT Christopher H. Edris, Band Manager for the United States Air Force Band of Liberty, retired on December 1, 2000 after more than 25 years of service to his country and the United States Air Force.

The retirement ceremony was held on October 6, 2000 in the Main Rehearsal Studio of the Joseph A. Brenneman building. Major Alan C. Sierichs, Commander of the USAF Band of Flight, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH and former Commander of the USAF Band of Liberty, was on hand to officiate the ceremony.

Several of Chief Edris' family and friends were in attendance, including his wife Sandy, children Leslie and Bradley, mother Ms. Dorothy Edris,

brother and sister-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd V. Edris Jr., and his parents-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Alton Pellman. Other dignitaries included 66th ABW Commander Col Danny K. Gardner, 66th ABW Vice Commander Col Michael J. Iltis, Electronic Systems Center Command Chief Master Sergeant Frank Holmes, former Electronic Systems Center Senior Enlisted Advisor CMSgt Thomas Golden, and members of the Hanscom Chief's Group.

Using the lyrics from a popular Tina Turner song, Major Sierichs summed up his four years of experience with Chief Edris with the following words: “Simply the best - better than all the rest.”

Ironically, on a day when Chief Edris was being honored, he spent the majority of his comments honoring and thanking those he had served with over his 25 year military career.

“My career has never been dull or stale,” said Chief Edris. “The places and jobs I held were always exciting. The people have always been fun to work with. The toughest challenge in my Air Force career is making good friendships and having those friends leave you.”

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Major Alan Sierichs presents CMSgt Chris Edris with his retirement certificate.

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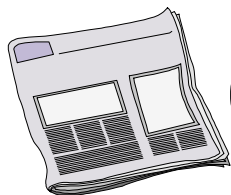
A Message from our Commander



Captain Scott A. Guidry

As we continue to dig out from under this season's "generous" snowfall, we here at the USAF Band of Liberty have plenty to be proud of. Senior Kevin Bleau, our Arranger, was selected the Air Force Materiel Command's Band Airman of the Year for 2000! This is an amazing accomplishment, considering the enormous wealth of musical talent and Air Force professionalism found among the airmen in this Major Command. In this edition, you'll also read of our experiences hosting an international military guest, the band's commitment to charitable causes, and one brave airman who is currently deployed to Saudi Arabia!

I marvel at the dedication of the men and women of the mighty Air Force, and in particular, of the ones serving right here with us at the Electronic Systems Center (ESC). ESC manages the development and acquisition of electronic command and control (C2) systems. These systems gather and analyze information on potentially hostile forces, enabling commanders to make quick decisions and rapidly pass them on to their forces. They help to direct the muscle of America's air-power arsenal to the right target at the right time. The USAF Band of Liberty is extremely proud to represent the Electronic Systems Center, and America's Air Force: No One Comes Close!



NEWS BRIEFS

BAND JOINS FIGHT FOR CANCER & ARTHRITIS RESEARCH

Several members of the Band of Liberty participated in two 5K "Fun Runs" around the base. The races were organized through the Hanscom AFB Health & Wellness Center, and each one focused on raising money and awareness to two illnesses. The first race on October 27th was the *Susan G. Kommen Breast Cancer Awareness 5K*, and the second race, the *Jingle Bell Trot for Arthritis 5K*, took place on December 7th. More than 30 band members participated in each race, and as a result, the band won a trophy for the most group participation. Of special note, during the Jingle Bell Trot, SrA Kevin Bleau placed 2nd overall, and a team comprised of MSgt Eldon Sully, MSgt Steve Rose, SrA Kevin Bleau, and A1C John Rattay placed 2nd in the team competition. A special "thank you" goes to A1C Jeremy Grant for organizing the band's efforts in each race.



More than 30 band members joined the fight against breast cancer during the Susan G. Kommen Breast Cancer Awareness 5K Fun Run.

JOB OPENINGS

The United States Air Force Band of Liberty announces immediate vacancies for the following positions:

Oboe
Saxophone
Trumpet
Trombone
Percussion

The United States Air Force Band of Liberty is a full time (active duty) Air Force band. Starting salary begins at \$20,000 with benefits including medical, dental, and 30 days vacation annually with pay. If interested in auditioning, please send a tape and resume to:

SSgt Bryan P. Bishop
Director, Human Resources
USAF Band of Liberty
25 Chennault St., Bldg. 1723
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731

phone: (781) 377-7035
e-mail: Bryan.Bishop@hanscom.af.mil

For more information regarding job opportunities, concert schedules, and other aspects of the USAF Band of Liberty, visit us online at www.hanscom.af.mil/ESC-BA/.

-- Hails & Farewells --



One of the newest members of the USAF Band of Liberty is **A1C Crescent Seibert**. A clarinetist with the *Concert Band* and *Ceremonial Band*, Airman Seibert hails from Norridgewock, Maine. She is a graduate of Ithaca College. Welcome!



An Air Force Band of Liberty welcome goes to **A1C John Garcia II** from Roanoke, Virginia. Airman Garcia is a euphonium player with the *Concert Band* and the *Ceremonial Band*. He is a recent graduate of the University of Cincinnati College - Conservatory of Music.



We also welcome **SSgt Lezlee Masson** to Hanscom AFB. A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Sgt Masson is a bassoonist with the *Concert Band* and a saxophonist with the *Ceremonial Band*. She recently completed a tour of duty with the United States Air Forces in Europe Band, Sembach Air Base, Germany.



The Band of Liberty says "Farewell" to **SrA Neal Melley**. A native of Belmont, Massachusetts, Airman Melley was a trombonist with the *Concert Band* and *Ambassadors Jazz Ensemble*. He is currently pursuing his Master's Degree in Music Performance and Jazz Studies. Best wishes Neal!



We say "Hello" to **A1C Amanda Proctor**. She comes to the Band of Liberty from Coral Gables, Florida. Airman Proctor is a clarinetist with the *Concert Band* and *Ceremonial Band*. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Cincinnati College - Conservatory of Music. Welcome to New England!



Another band farewell goes to **A1C Keyle Kosowsky**. One of the band's featured vocalists, Airman Kosowsky hails from Smith's Creek, Michigan and performed with the *Concert Band*, *Ambassadors Jazz Ensemble*, and the *New Horizon Popular Music Combo*. Thank you, Keyle, for the memories and good luck with your future endeavors.

Royal Swedish Navy Band Member Joins Band for Rehearsal & Concert

A MEMBER of the Royal Swedish Navy Band joined the USAF Band of Liberty for a day of rehearsal and later performed with the band during one of its holiday concerts in Dover, New Hampshire.

Wiktorja Nilsson has been playing tuba since she was 14 years old and has been a member of the Royal Swedish Navy Band since 1993. Beginning in the summer of 1999, she took two years off from her employment to come to the United States, primarily to study with Chester Schmitz, principal tubist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Upon arriving in the U.S., she learned that the low brass professor at the University of New Hampshire was taking a sabbatical. After an interview and audition, Wiktorja was hired as the Interim Professor of Low Brass during the Fall 2000 semester.



Wiktorja poses with the Band of Liberty's tuba section, MSgt Greg Sprowl (L) and SSgt Jeff Saunders (R).

"There are more opportunities for musicians in America than in Sweden," said Wiktorja. "My country is small, which makes it difficult to survive as a musician if you are not employed somewhere."

The rehearsal and performance, coordinated by SMSgt Nick Zaricki and MSgt Greg Sprowl, was the first time an international military band member actually sat in with the band and performed a concert.

"It was an excellent opportunity for us all to experience the camaraderie of service musicians," said MSgt Greg Sprowl, a tubist with the Band of Liberty. "A tubist from as far away as Sweden surprisingly shares some of the same musical background, teachers, repertoire, and career progression as professional tubists here in the states. It was a pleasure to share this experience with her."

"Thank you for this opportunity," said Wiktorja. "I really enjoyed performing and visiting with you."

Personnel Spotlight

Yearly Award Winners 2000

Senior Noncommissioned Officer



MSgt Stanley L. Holland
Hartford, AL

Noncommissioned Officer



TSgt David D. Arnold
Lindstrom, MN

Airman



SrA Kevin M. Bleau
Boonville, NY

Quarterly Award Winners October - December 2000

Senior Noncommissioned Officer



MSgt Stanley L. Holland
Hartford, AL

Noncommissioned Officer



TSgt David D. Arnold
Lindstrom, MN

Airman



A1C Dustin B. Hatfield
Soldotna, AK

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Chief concluded his comments by reading "The Road Goes Ever Onward," a poem found in "Fellowship of the Ring," the first book in the mythical series *Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien.

Under the direction of Commander Scott Guidry, the Band of Liberty then paid special tribute to Chief Edris with a rendition of "Auld Lang Syne".

Chief Edris entered the Air Force in June 1975 and was assigned to the Tactical Air Command Band, Langley AFB, VA as a vocalist. His subsequent assignments were March AFB, CA; McChord AFB, WA; and McGuire AFB, NJ.

He is a professional entertainer with performing experience throughout the United States and overseas. He has appeared on stage with such notable actors and performers as Bob Hope and Elizabeth Taylor.

During his career with the Air Force Bands, Chief Edris held various positions including first sergeant, resource advisor, director of operations, vehicle control officer, jazz ensemble director, and senior band operations manager.

As far as his retirement plans, Chief Edris plans to reside and work in the local area.

Thank you, Chief, for your dedication to this organization and the United States Air Force. You will be greatly missed!

Congratulations to our newest promotees!

Senior Airman Ashley P. Harding
Senior Airman Jeffrey R. Saunders
Senior Airman Diantha D. Thompson



SrA Ashley P. Harding
Chestertown, MD



SrA Jeffrey R. Saunders
Binghamton, NY



SrA Diantha D. Thompson
Las Cruces, NM

SrA Thompson Deploys to Saudi Arabia



SrA Diantha Thompson is experiencing a unique adventure compared to her normal routine as a French horn player with the USAF Band of Liberty's *Concert Band*. She volunteered to participate in Operation Southern Watch as a Third Country National (TCN) Escort at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia.

The deployment lasts for 45 days and is available to enlisted members in the grade of E-5 and below. Airman Thompson's responsibilities are to escort foreign nationals who come on base to perform their normal duties and to monitor their actions while on base. She has been trained in checkpoint procedures to help keep accountable all TCN personnel and their vehicles. Before deploying overseas, she had to complete training in Self-Aid Buddy Care, Law of Armed Conflict, Chemical Warfare, and M-16 Qualification. Good luck!

SrA Craig Receives Degree Through Bootstrap Program



The Band of Liberty welcomes back **SrA Mark Craig**. A clarinetist with the *Concert Band* and *Ceremonial Band*, Airman Craig recently earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He spent the past seven months completing the requirements for this degree with the assistance of the Air

Force's Operation Bootstrap. This program allows active-duty Air Force personnel to return to school full-time to complete their degree while still receiving full military benefits and pay. Airman Craig graduated on December 16, 2000 with an overall GPA of 3.5. Congratulations Mark on this great achievement!